

1 14. (Amended) A network computer system, comprising:  
2 a first computer node having a data file in computer-readable memory; and  
3 a second computer node that issues to the first computer node a first message re-  
4 questing grant of a set of tokens required to carry out a modification of at least one char-  
5 acteristic of said file;  
6 the first computer node issuing a second message to the second computer node  
7 after receipt of the first message, the second message granting the set of tokens to the first  
8 process if the set of tokens is available for grant to the second process.

1 15. (Amended) A system according to claim 14, wherein:  
2 the first computer node is a server node, and the second computer node is a non-  
3 server node.

1 16. (Amended) A system according to claim 14, wherein:  
2 the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to carry out the modification of the  
3 at least one characteristic of the file.

1 17. (Amended) A system according to claim 14, wherein:  
2 if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for the grant because the at  
3 least one token is currently granted, the first computer node waits to issue the first mes-  
4 sage until after the first computer node receives a third message from a third computer  
5 node indicating relinquishment of current grant of the at least one token.

1 18. (Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein:  
2 the at least one token comprises a plurality of tokens.

1 19. (Amended) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable program  
2 instructions, the instructions comprising:

3           first instructions which when executed permit a data file to be maintained in com-  
4    puter storage memory;

5           second instructions which when executed generate a first message requesting  
6    grant of a plurality of tokens required to modify at least one characteristic of said file; and

7           third instructions which when executed generate a second message, in response to  
8    said first message, that grants said tokens if said tokens are available for grant to said  
9    second process.

1   20. (Amended) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable program  
2    instructions, the instructions comprising:

3           first instructions which when executed generate a first message that grants a set of  
4    tokens, if the set of tokens is available for grant, to a requester of the set of tokens, the set  
5    of tokens being required to permit the requester to be able to modify at least one charac-  
6    teristic of a file stored in computer storage memory.

1   21. (Amended) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable program  
2    instructions, the instructions comprising:

3           first instructions that when executed generate a request for grant of a set of tokens  
4    required to enable modification by an issuer of the request of at least one characteristic of  
5    a file residing in storage memory.

1   22. (Amended) Computer-readable memory according to Claim 19, further compris-  
2    ing:

3           further instructions which when executed causes, if any of said tokens are un-  
4    available for grant as a result of current grant of said tokens, generation of a third mes-  
5    sage revoking the current grant of said tokens.

1   23. (Amended) A computer-readable memory according to claim 22, wherein:  
2           said further instructions, in response to said third message, generate a fourth mes-  
3    sage making said tokens available for grant.

1 24. (Amended) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, further comprising:  
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3 further instructions which when executed cause, if at least one token in the set of  
4 tokens is unavailable for grant because the at least one token is currently granted, genera-  
5 tion of a second message that revokes previous grant of the at least one token prior to  
6 generating the first message.

1 25. (Amended) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, wherein:

2 the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of  
3 tokens generated, the request specifying all tokens required to be able to modify the at  
4 least one characteristic of the file.

1 26. (Amended) Computer-readable memory according to claim 21, wherein:

2 the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least  
3 one characteristic of the file.

1 27. (Amended) A computerized data file system, comprising:

2 means for maintaining a data file in computer-readable memory; and

3 means for generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens re-  
4 quired to modify at least one characteristic of said file;

5 means for generating a second message, in response to said first message, that  
6 grants said tokens if said tokens are available for grant.

1 28. (Amended) A system according to claim 27, further comprising:

2 means for generating, if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of  
3 current grant of said tokens, a third message revoking the current grant of said tokens.

1 29. (Amended) A system according to claim 28, further comprising:

2           means for generating, in response to said third message, a fourth message making  
3    said tokens available for grant.

1    30.    (Amended) A computerized method for coherently maintaining and modifying a  
2    data file, comprising:  
3        maintaining a data file in computer-readable memory;  
4        generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens required to  
5    modify at least one characteristic of said file; and  
6        generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants said  
7    tokens if said tokens are available for grant.

1    31.    (Amended) A method according to claim 30, further comprising:  
2        if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of current grant of said  
3    tokens to at least one other process, generating a third message revoking the grant of said  
4    tokens.

1    32.    (Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein:  
2        in response to said third message, a fourth message making said tokens available  
3    for grant is generated.

1    33.    (Amended) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a data  
2    file, comprising:  
3        generating a first message that grants a set of tokens, if the set of tokens is avail-  
4    able for grant, to a requester of the grant of the set of tokens, the set of tokens being re-  
5    quired for requester to be able to modify at least one characteristic of the file.

1    34.    (Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein:  
2        if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for grant because the at  
3    least one token has been currently granted, the method also comprises a second message  
4    that revokes current grant of the at least one token prior to generating the first message.

1 35. (Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein:  
2       the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of  
3       tokens generated by the requester, the request specifying all tokens required for the re-  
4       quester to be able to modify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1 36. (Amended) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a data  
2       file, comprising:  
3       generating a request for grant of a set of tokens required to enable modification of  
4       at least one characteristic of the file.

37. (Amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein:  
      the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least  
      one characteristic of the file.